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## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

### Tenth Annual Convention of the Religious Education Association

Ten years ago an association was organized which may be said to present more open doors for progress than almost any other in either the religious or secular field, for this so fully represents both. We refer to the Religious Education Association, the tenth annual convention of which came to a close on Thursday, March 13, in Cleveland, Ohio. Space does not permit us to give details of important actions there taken, or even approximate reports of the hundred and fifty or more addresses from men whose names are known from the Atlantic to the Pacific, in connection with the topics for which they were announced. A simple reading of the program was sufficient to indicate what religious education in the thought of these large-minded men may signify, in the matter of both comprehensiveness and liberality. The trend of action in religious education is indicated by the changed emphasis of the program during the last ten years. At first it concerned itself more largely with the Sunday school and the conventional lines of church work. As the years have passed and the failures of religious education in the Sunday school have been found to lie chiefly in untrained teachers and unappreciative homes, the association has laid increasing emphasis on the necessity for providing in the college and the day school the education in religion which will send young men and young women fresh from college life into active and effectual service in their home churches and into the founding of homes devoted to the rational training of Christian families.

Not less than twenty-five addresses were scheduled, grouped under such topics as: "The College Curricula Based upon Certain Laws of Student Development"; "Respective Functions of the Different Religious Agencies of Higher Institutions";

"The Science of Religion and Its Place in the Curriculum"; "The Making of Religious Citizens"; "Present Conditions in Bible Study in Our Colleges." The annual meeting of the council of the association was devoted in four important sessions to a conference on social education in high schools. To this conference were invited one hundred and fifty leading educators, many of whom participated in the program. The discussions were among the most impressive of the convention. In a public-school section of the association still further attention was given to moral and ethical instruction for pupils of all ages.

The general theme of the convention, "Religious Education and Civic Progress," well expresses the ground of discussion in the department of churches and pastors, as well as in that of theological seminaries. In the former the question of the dominant function of the church in the life of today was memorably presented by such men as Washington Gladden, Charles F. Dole, and Timothy Frost. In the department of theological seminaries the discussion centered around modifications in the curriculum, based on the demands of such a church as that portrayed by these men. Much interest was manifested in the question of worship for children either separately or in connection with the adult worship of the church. Practical plans which have been tried out were described and commented upon. Here, as in every department of the organization, it might be observed that the tendency is away from definite machinery, or programs to be automatically instituted, toward a careful study of local conditions and adjustment of all plans, whether for the church, the Sunday school, or other religious work in the community, to the needs of the particular constituency which is under consideration. In other words, common-sense and wise judgment or, perhaps in more

modern phrase, a scientific study of the religious needs of a community and scientific management in the filling of these needs is the demand of both leaders and those who are led.

In the department of Sunday schools the constitution of the curriculum which should be provided for boys and girls of the high-school age, and recreational and other activities for pupils of all ages were the chief themes. "Training for Citizenship through the High-School Curriculum," and "Training for Citizenship through Boys' and Girls' Clubs," the general topics of two separate meetings, indicate the practical nature of the several addresses given.

In the many conferences of the Christian associations, the brotherhoods, the training schools for lay-workers, and other equally important constituencies, it was clear that the desire for unselfish service, and close co-operation with every existing agency for religious education and civic welfare, permeated the groups. Eugenics and sex hygiene were among the subjects newly appearing in the convention. The address by Dean Walter F. Sumner on "The Double Standard of Morality: Its Relation to Civic Progress" was one of the most conspicuous and highly approved of the many great evening addresses.

The hospitality and co-operation of the people of Cleveland, both in the preparation for the meetings through most capable and influential local committees and by their hearty support of all meetings, evidenced the high standard of their own citizenship and their ability to appreciate so great a program as was presented. It was fitting that one of their own educational leaders, President Charles F. Thwing, of Western Reserve

University, was honored with the presidency for the coming year.

On this the tenth anniversary of the association many references were made to the founder of the association, President William Rainey Harper, whose dream, translated into action ten years ago, gave birth to the function which the association is so memorably fulfilling. No one can fail to be impressed with the breadth and sanity of the work of the organization, the democracy of its constituency, and the dynamic power which it contains. Through all of its sessions religion and education go hand in hand; educational activities recognize more fully the need and possibility of religious and moral elements, and religious activities seek the means of expression which scientific educational methods present.

#### **Professor Kirsopp Lake to Lecture in America Next Year**

Rev. Kirsopp Lake, professor of early Christian literature and New Testament exegesis at the University of Leyden, Holland, is to lecture at the Episcopal Theological School, Cambridge, next academic year. The Cambridge institution has invited the distinguished foreign scholar to fill the chair of New Testament exegesis and word has just been received of his acceptance. The matter now lacks only the official approval of Professor Lake's request for a leave of absence by the Holland Minister of Education. Professor Lake is to conduct the courses formerly given by the late Professor Henry S. Nash. They are: "The Exegesis of the Epistle to the Romans"; "The Apostolic Age," and a seminar course on "Early Christian Literature" or some allied subject.

## **CHURCH EFFICIENCY**

### **The Motion Picture and the Church**

The moral uses to which the motion picture may be adapted in the interest of moral teaching, says Carl Holliday in the *Inde-*

*pendent*, seem unlimited. For instance, at the Buffalo meeting of the Second Missionary Department of the Protestant Episcopal Church during October, 1912, it depicted